Remarks

The Office Action mailed September 4, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14, 15, 17-48, 50-55, and 62-65 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4-48, 50-56, 62 and 63 have been rejected. Claims 3, 13, 16, 49 and 56-61 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 14, 23, 30, 44, 50 and 62 have been amended herein. Claims 64 and 65 are newly added. No additional fee is due for newly added Claims 64 and 65. No new matter has been added.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-48, 50-56, 62, and 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 14, 23, 30, 44, and 50 to address the Section 112 rejection. Although Claim 62 was not specifically addressed in the Section 112 rejection, Applicants have amended Claim 62 to address the Section 112 rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-48, 50-56, 62, and 63 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-48, 50-56, 62, and 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hall (U.S. Pat. No. 7,0857,35) is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Hall does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. As discussed below, at least one of the differences between the present invention and Hall is that Hall does not describe or suggest a method for operating a computer to conduct a due diligence that includes storing transactional data in the database for a plurality of different types of business transactions including a commercial financing, a merger, an acquisition, and a real estate transaction, the transactional data including a first set of data and a second set of data, wherein the first data set identifies data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions, and the second data set identifies a person or a tool recommended for collecting the data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions.

Furthermore, Hall does not describe or suggest automatically identifying data to be collected during a due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete an inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of

documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction, wherein automatically identifying data is based on a first data set stored in a database for a type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction.

Moreover, Hall does not describe or suggest automatically identifying at least one data collector to collect identified data, wherein automatically identifying the at least one data collector is based on a second data set stored in a database for a type of business transaction corresponding with an inputted business transaction.

Hall describes a method of electronically-managing the closing of a real estate transaction. The method includes registering parties to the real estate transaction using closing server digital identifications of the parties. More specifically, the parties enter information related to the parties, the terms, and the conditions of the real estate transaction within a closing questionnaire. The closing server (102) repeatedly interacts with one or more of the parties, using the closing questionnaire, to build a transaction database that includes a plurality of agreed to closing conditions for the real estate transaction. A closing condition includes a legally binding statement of the closing condition, a designation of the closing condition as an active condition or a passive condition, a deadline for approving or disapproving the closing condition, and a selection from among the parties with registered digital identifications of an authorized party entitled to approve or disapprove the closing condition. The closing questionnaire is used to provide closing instruction to the closing server (102).

After receiving the closing instructions, the closing server (102) repeatedly interacts with one or more of the parties identified by a registered digital identification and receives an instruction to approve or disapprove one or more closing conditions. The closing server (102) automatically determines that the conditions designated as active that have not been approved by a deadline are breached and automatically determines that the conditions designated as passive that have not been disapproved by a deadline are cleared. As such, modules are re-run and updated to clear the inputted closing conditions. The real estate transaction is closed after all of the agreed closing conditions have been cleared.

Notably, re-running condition modules until all closing conditions have been cleared as described in Hall is different than automatically identifying data to be collected during a

due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete an inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction, and automatically identifying at least one data collector to collect identified data, wherein automatically identifying the data and at least one data collector is based on respective data sets stored in a database for a type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction.

Claim 1 recites a method for operating a computer to conduct a due diligence for a business transaction, the computer coupled to a database, said method comprising "storing transactional data in the database for a plurality of different types of business transactions including a commercial financing, a merger, an acquisition, and a real estate transaction, the transactional data including a first set of data and a second set of data, wherein the first data set identifies data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions, and the second data set identifies a person or a tool recommended for collecting the data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions . . . inputting into the computer a business transaction to be completed, wherein the inputted business transaction is included within one of the plurality of different types of business transactions stored in the database . . . automatically identifying data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction, wherein said automatically identifying data is based on the first data set stored in the database for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . automatically identifying at least one data collector to collect the identified data, wherein said automatically identifying the at least one data collector is based on the second data set stored in the database for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . receiving the identified data from the at least one identified data collector . . . storing the collected data in the database . . . and generating each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data stored in the database."

Hall does not describe or suggest a method for operating a computer to conduct a due diligence for a business transaction as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Hall does not describe or suggest a method that includes storing transactional data in the database for a plurality of different types of business transactions including a commercial financing, a merger, an acquisition, and a real estate transaction, the transactional data including a first set of data and a second set of data, wherein the first data set identifies data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions, and the second data set identifies a person or a tool recommended for collecting the data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 1, Hall describes a system that only includes modules related to a real estate transaction.

Furthermore, Hall does not describe or suggest a method that includes automatically identifying data to be collected during a due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete an inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction, wherein automatically identifying data is based on a first data set stored in a database for a type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 1, Hall describes that contingency modules are re-run and updated to determined whether a contingency has been met or has failed. As such, in Hall, the parties designate which data is to be collected and the modules merely determined whether the predetermined data has been collected by a party.

Moreover, Hall does not describe or suggest a method that includes automatically identifying at least one data collector to collect identified data, wherein automatically identifying the at least one data collector is based on a second data set stored in a database for a type of business transaction corresponding with an inputted business transaction. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 1, Hall describes that parties input information about an agreed upon real estate transaction into a closing questionnaire to identify which party is entitled to approve or disapprove a closing condition. As such, in Hall, the parties identify which parties is to approval or disapprove a condition, rather than having the system of Hall automatically identify a data collector to collect identified data.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 13 has been cancelled. Claims 2, 4-12, and 62 depend from independent Claim 1, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 2, 4-12, and 62 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2, 4-12, and 62 are also patentable over Hall.

Claim 2, which depends from independent Claim 1, recites "wherein said step of automatically identifying data to be collected further comprises the step of identifying a time for collection of the identified data, wherein the identified time sequentially relates a first event to a second event." Hall does not describe or suggest a method that includes identifying a time for collection of identified data, wherein the identified time sequentially relates a first event to a second event. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 2, Hall describes that parties input a deadlines for approving or disapproving a closing condition into a closing questionnaire. As such, in Hall the parties designate a deadline rather than the system automatically identifying a time for collection of data. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 2 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 4, which depends from independent Claim 1, recites "wherein said step of receiving the identified data further comprises the step of evaluating the effectiveness of collection of the identified data." Hall does not describe or suggest a method that includes evaluating the effectiveness of collection of identified data. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 4, Hall describes that modules are re-run and updated until a predetermined condition is either approved or disapproved. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 4 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 7, which depends from independent Claim 1, recites "wherein said step of receiving the identified data comprises receiving the identified data from data collected during at least one phase of the due diligence, wherein the phases of the due diligence include customer origination, auditing and underwriting and approval." Hall does not describe or suggest a method that includes receiving identified data from data collected during at least one phase of a due diligence, wherein the phases of the due diligence include customer origination, auditing and underwriting and approval. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 7, Hall describes a closing server that includes due diligence modules including a Delivery of Title Commitment module, an Existing Loans module, a Contingency Deadlines

module, and an Active Contingency Removal module. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 7 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 8, which depends from independent Claim 1, recites "wherein said step of generating each standard documentation file further comprises assembling at least one standard documentation file including generating at least one of a pre-closing credit file and a legal documentation file." Hall does not describe or suggest a method that includes assembling at least one standard documentation file including generating at least one of a pre-closing credit file and a legal documentation file. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 8, Hall merely describes a system that run due diligence modules based on predetermined conditions as input into a closing questionnaire, wherein an Existing Loan module may create a payoff demand and/or a balance request. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 8 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 10, which depends indirectly from independent Claim 1, recites "wherein said step of evaluating the effectiveness of collection of the identified data comprises the step of determining at least one of a percent of data passed between underwriting and legal, a percent of usable data provided by underwriting and approval and a present percent of completeness of the standard documentation file after each stage of due diligence." Hall does not describe or suggest a method that includes determining at least one of a percent of data passed between underwriting and legal, a percent of usable data provided by underwriting and approval, and a present percent of completeness of the standard documentation file after each stage of due diligence. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 10, Hall merely describes due diligence modules that are re-run and updated until a predetermined condition is either approved or disapproved. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 10 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 62, which depends from independent Claim 1, recites "wherein said step of inputting into the computer a business transaction further comprises inputting into the computer a specific type of business transaction to be completed wherein the inputted business transaction includes at least one of purchasing or selling an operating business and providing financing for purchasing an operating business." Hall does not describe or suggest a method that includes inputting into a computer a business transaction to be completed wherein the inputted business transaction includes at least one of purchasing or selling an

operating business and providing financing for purchasing an operating business. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 62, Hall describes a system that only includes modules related to a real estate transaction. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 62 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 14 recites a computer for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction, said computer coupled to a database, said computer programmed to "store transactional data in the database for a plurality of different types of business transactions including a commercial financing, a merger, an acquisition, and a real estate transaction, the transactional data including a first set of data and a second set of data, wherein the first data set identifies data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions, and the second data set identifies a person or a tool recommended for collecting each data type required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions . . . prompt a user to input a business transaction to be completed, wherein the inputted business transaction is included within one of the plurality of different types of business transactions stored in the database . . . automatically identify data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction, wherein said automatically identifying data is based on the first data set stored in the database for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . automatically identify at least one data collector to collect the identified data, wherein said automatically identifying the at least one data collector is based on the second data set stored in the database for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . receive the identified data from the at least one identified data collector . . . store the collected data in the database . . . and generate each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data stored in the database."

Claim 14 recites a computer for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a computer programmed to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 14 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 14 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 16 has been cancelled. Claims 15, 17-22 and 63 depend from independent Claim 14, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 15, 17-22 and 63 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 15, 17-22 and 63 are also patentable over Hall.

Claim 15, which depends from independent Claim 14, recites "wherein said computer is further programmed to prompt the user to identify a time for collection of the identified data." Hall does not describe or suggest a computer that is programmed to prompt the user to identify a time for collection of the identified data. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 15, Hall describes that parties input a deadlines for approving or disapproving a closing condition into a closing questionnaire. As such, in Hall the parties designate a deadline rather than the system automatically identifying a time for collection of data. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 15 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 17 recites a computer for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a computer programmed to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 4. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 17 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 17 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 19 recites a computer for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a computer programmed to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 8. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 19 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 19 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 20 recites a computer for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a computer programmed to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 10. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 20 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 20 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 63 recites a computer for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a computer programmed to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 62. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 63 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 62. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 63 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 23 recites a database for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction, said database comprising "data corresponding to transactional data for a plurality of different types of business transactions including a commercial financing, a merger, an acquisition, and a real estate transaction, wherein the transactional data includes a first set of data and a second set of data, wherein the first data set identifies data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions, and the second data set identifies a person or a tool recommended for collecting each data type required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions . . . data corresponding to prompting a user to input a business transaction to be completed, wherein the inputted business transaction is included within one of the plurality of different types of business transactions stored in the database . . . data corresponding to identifying data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction, wherein said identifying data is based on the first data set for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . data corresponding to identifying at least one data collector to collect the identified data, wherein said identifying data is based on the second data set for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . data corresponding to a time for collection of the identified data . . . and data corresponding to generating each standard documentation file for the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data."

Claim 23 recites a database for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that is programmed to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 23 is submitted to be patentable over Hall.

Claims 24-29 depend from independent Claim 23, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 24-29 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 24-29 are also patentable over Hall.

Claim 24 recites a database for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that is programmed to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 4. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 24 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 24 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 28, which depends from independent Claim 23, recites "wherein said data corresponding to the standard documentation file comprises at least one of data associating a pre-closing file with an audit report, data regarding accounts receivable aging and data relating to a top ten customers by sales volume." Hall does not describe or suggest a database that includes at least one of data associating a pre-closing file with an audit report, data regarding accounts receivable aging, and data relating to a top ten customers by sales volume. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 28, Hall describes a system that only includes modules related to a real estate transaction. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 28 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 29, which depends from independent Claim 23, recites a database including "data corresponding to a due diligence checklist." Hall does not describe or suggest a database that includes data corresponding to a due diligence checklist. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 29, Hall describes a closing questionnaire into which parties input data to generate closing instructions. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 29 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 30 recites a system for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction, said system comprising "a database for storing transactional data for a plurality of different types of business transactions including a commercial financing, a merger, an acquisition, and a real estate transaction, the transactional data including a first set of data and a second

set of data, wherein the first data set identifies data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions and including a due diligence checklist, and the second data set identifies a person or a tool recommended for collecting the data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions . . . a server coupled to the database, the server configured to . . . prompt a user to input a business transaction to be completed, wherein the inputted business transaction is included within one of the plurality of different types of business transactions stored in the database . . . automatically identify data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction, wherein said automatically identifying data is based on the first data set stored in said database for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . automatically identify at least one data collector to collect the identified data, wherein said automatically identifying the at least one data collector is based on the second data set stored in said database for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . automatically identify a time for collection of the identified data, wherein said automatically identifying the time is based on the transactional data stored in said database for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . and generate each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data."

Claim 30 recites a system for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 30 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 30 is submitted to be patentable over Hall.

Claims 31-43 depend from independent Claim 30, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 31-43 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 30, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 31-43 are also patentable over Hall.

Claim 32 recites a system for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 10. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 32 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 32 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 37 recites a system for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 8. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 37 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 37 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 39 recites a system for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 7. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 39 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 7. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 39 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 41 recites a system for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 4. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 41 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 41 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 43 recites a system for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 28. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 43 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 28. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 43 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 44 recites a method for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction using a computer coupled to a database, said method comprising the steps of "storing transactional data in the database for a plurality of different types of business transactions including a commercial financing, a merger, an acquisition, and a real estate transaction, the

transactional data including a first set of data and a second set of data, wherein the first data set identifies data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions, and the second data set identifies a person or a tool recommended for collecting each data type required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions . . . prompting a user to input into the computer a business transaction to be completed, wherein the inputted business transaction is included within one of the plurality of different types of business transactions stored in the database . . . selecting, from an electronic interface, data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction, wherein said selecting the data is based on the first data set stored in the database for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . selecting, from the electronic interface, at least one data collector to collect the selected data, wherein said selecting the at least one data collector is based on the second data set stored in the database for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . and generating each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data."

Claim 44 recites a method for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 44 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 44 is submitted to be patentable over Hall.

Claims 45-48 depend from independent Claim 44, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 45-48 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 44, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 45-48 are also patentable over Hall.

Claim 45 recites a method for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 15. Thus, it is submitted that

Claim 45 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 45 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 46 recites a method for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 4. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 46 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 46 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 48 recites a method for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 8. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 48 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 48 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 50 recites apparatus for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction, said apparatus comprising "means for storing transactional data for a plurality of different types of business transactions including a commercial financing, a merger, an acquisition, and a real estate transaction, wherein the transactional data includes a first set of data and a second set of data, wherein the first data set identifies data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions, and the second data set identifies a person or a tool recommended for collecting each data type required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions . . . means for inputting a business transaction to be completed, wherein the inputted business transaction is included within one of the plurality of different types of business transactions stored in the database . . . means for identifying data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction, wherein said identifying the data is based on the first data set stored in the database for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . means for identifying at least one data collector to collect the identified data, wherein said identifying the at least one data collector is based on the second data set stored in the database for the type of business transaction corresponding with the inputted business transaction . . . means for receiving and storing the identified data . . . and means for generating each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the

inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data."

Claim 50 recites an apparatus for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes means for perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 50 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 50 is submitted to be patentable over Hall.

Claim 56 has been cancelled. Claims 51-55 depend from independent Claim 50, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 51-55 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 50, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 51-55 are also patentable over Hall.

Claim 51 recites an apparatus for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes means for perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 15. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 51 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 51 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 53 recites an apparatus for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes means for perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 4. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 53 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 53 is patentable over Hall.

Claim 55 recites an apparatus for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes means for perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 8. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 55 is patentable over Hall for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 55 is patentable over Hall.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-48, 50-56, 62 and 63 be withdrawn.

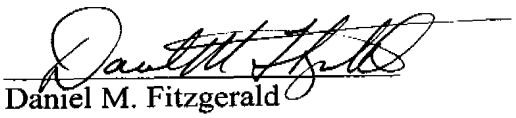
Claims 64 and 65 are newly added and depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1.

With respect to Claim 64, Hall does not describe nor suggest a method for operating a computer to conduct a due diligence where the method includes storing a knowledge base in a database, wherein the knowledge base includes a first data set identifying data required to complete each of a plurality of different types of business transactions, a second data set identifying a person or a tool recommended for collecting the data required to complete each of the plurality of different types of business transactions, and a third data set corresponding to a standard documentation file such that automatically identifying data to be collected and automatically identifying at least one data collector to collect the identified data are based on the stored knowledge base. Rather, Hall only describes closing instructions that have been input by the parties based on an already agreed upon real estate transaction. Furthermore, Claim 1 is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claim 64 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claim 64 is also patentable over Hall.

With respect to Claim 65, Hall does not describe nor suggest a method for operating a computer to conduct a due diligence where the method includes storing a knowledge base in a database, wherein the knowledge base further includes a fourth data set identifying a timing for collecting data identified to complete each of a plurality of different types of business transactions, wherein the timing includes which data points included within the data identified for collection are to be collected before other data points included within the data identified for collection. Rather, Hall only describes closing instructions that have been input by the parties based on an already agreed upon real estate transaction. Furthermore, Claim 1 is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claim 65 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claim 65 is also patentable over Hall.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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